

The Lancaster News.

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MEXICAN DICTATOR IS READY TO STEP DOWN

Huerta Authorizes Delegates to Submit His Resignation.

FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE.

Stated Positively in Dispatches From a Thoroughly Competent Source in Mexico City.

Washington, May 18.—General Huerta has authorized the Mexican mediation delegates to submit his resignation in case such a course is necessary to a settlement in peace negotiations. This was stated positively in dispatches today from a thoroughly competent diplomatic source in Mexico City to one of the foreign representatives here and confirms intimations given by friends of the delegates here yesterday.

According to this information from Mexico City, Huerta at first authorized the delegates to discuss only the question of the Tampico conflict leading to the American occupation of Vera Cruz. Later the Mexican dictator, it is explained, came to recognize the necessity of a broader settlement and then conveyed to the delegates assurance that he was prepared to step down should this course be found necessary by them.

The problem causing chief concern to diplomats in Mexico City now is that of the form of administration to be established during the interim before a constitutionally elected President could assume office. No intimations concerning the name of a possible successor to Huerta were contained in the dispatch, this subject being one in which it would be necessary to consult the opinion of Constitutionalist and other leaders in Mexico.

The information that the Mexican delegates had been given provisional authority to submit the resignation of Huerta did not occasion great surprise here as close friends of the Huerta government's commission broadly intimated yesterday that the definite elimination of the dictator probably would be one of the first fruits of the Niagara Falls conference.

It was emphasized today that the men chosen to act for the Mexican federal government are not pre-eminently "Huertistas," but represent the broader views of best citizens of the federal districts and are desirous above all else of pacifying the republic.

There was no hint in official circles today as to what form of government might succeed the Huerta regime. It was expected, however, that the United States would not sanction the elevation to supreme authority of any Mexican who had gained his pre-eminence "by arbitrary power."

How Far Will It Go?

Washington, May 18.—While the stage was being set in Niagara Falls today for the next big scene in the Mexican mediation drama, officials in diplomatic and administration circles eagerly discussed the extent to which the peace conference might go in attempting a settlement of the southern republic's ills. Reported optimism of the Huerta delegates over chances for mediation found reflection in the capital.

Members of the Mexican federal mission were in New York today. Minister Naon of Argentina, was in Niagara Falls to arrange for the beginning of the conference next Wednesday. Ambassador da Gama of Brazil was in New York, whence he was to leave for the Canadian border town. Minister Suarez of Chile was to leave here today and members of the American mission were to depart direct for Niagara Falls to reach there Tuesday night or early Wednesday morning about the time the Huerta representatives arrive from New York.

HUERTA DELEGATES SILENT.

The Huerta delegates firmly declined while here to give out any statement of their program. Nevertheless, some idea of their viewpoint was believed to have been obtained from representative Mexicans and others with whom they talked. They were reported as feeling that the federal administration is disintegrating and that it is inevitable that a successor must be chosen for Huerta. At the same time, they are vitally in-

terested in what might follow such a crisis—what guarantee could be obtained against possible property confiscation by invading constitutionalists; safeguards against anarchy, and the kind of government that would stand and attract world recognition.

THE REAL PROBLEM.

Theoretically, the Huerta delegates face an international issue, but they are declared to have privately admitted that the real problem confronting them is the pacification of their country. At the same time, persons in the confidence of the Washington government assert the question for mediation no longer is the Tampico flag incident or the numerous affronts to the dignity of the United States, but the broad question of settling the troubled republic's ills. It is said that General Funston's troops never will be withdrawn from Vera Cruz until a firm government is established or assured in Mexico City.

Speculation was renewed today on the ultimate attitude of Carranza toward mediation. Observers who were said to have the confidence of the Huerta mission stated that the federalists probably would object to the naming as Huerta's successor any man in the way to power "by arbitrary force," a principle set forth in President Wilson's Latin-American address. That would eliminate the two constitutionalist leaders—Carranza and Villa—although there are men in the northern faction who would not be unacceptable, it is said.

TWO INCIDENTS UNSETTLED.
Two incidents among several which beclouded the mediation skies during the past week, today remained unsettled. One was the fate of Samuel Parks, an American infantryman, reported to have been executed after he had ridden into federal lines outside of Vera Cruz. The other was the detention of John R. Silliman, American vice consul at Saltillo. Silliman had not yet reached Mexico City as had been promised, but it was presumed the reason for delay was broken rail communication.

ENTERTAINMENT AT HEATH SPRINGS

Lancaster Musicians Please a Large and Appreciative Audience in Neighboring Town.

Heath Springs, May 18.—A party of Lancaster musicians very charmingly entertained a large and appreciative audience in the Masonic hall here last Friday night. The program consisted of violin, quartettes and solos by Prof. McDermid and his class of young ladies, piano and vocal solos, and vocal quartettes. Too much cannot be said in praise of the excellent manner in which the program was arranged and carried out, and of the creditable manner in which each number was rendered. Little Miss Mary Locke Barron made quite a hit as an expressionist.

The proceeds were given to the music fund of the Heath Springs school, and this, as well as the delightful entertainment, was very much appreciated by the people of our little town.

A WEEK OF FAIR DAYS.

May Have a Few Showers But the Skies Will Soon Clear.

Washington, May 17.—Generally fair weather over much of the country is the official weather forecast for this week.

"With the exception of showers the first half of the week in the Southern states and the middle Mississippi and Ohio valleys and about Wednesday in the middle Atlantic and New England states, the coming week promises to be one of generally fair weather over much of the country," said the bulletin. "Temperatures will average near or slightly above the normal over most of the country east of the Rock Mountains. There is no important storm charted to cross the country."

American Consul-General Griffith Dies Suddenly.

London, May 17.—John L. Griffiths, the American consul-general at London, died suddenly of heart disease tonight at his residence here. Consul Griffith had suffered from a slight illness recently, but was considered convalescent. He was out driving today and apparently was quite well until the fatal attack. Nothing was decided tonight regarding the funeral.

METHODISTS' MEETING IN OKLAHOMA CITY

Vanderbilt Question Goes Back to Original Status.

CLAIM SUBSTANTIAL RIGHT

The Conference Votes to Reconsider the Entire University Matter.

Oklahoma City, May 18.—Just before adjournment for the day the general conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in session here, voted to reconsider the entire Vanderbilt University question.

The vote upon the question to reconsider the report to the committee of fifteen was reached shortly before noon and was almost unanimous.

It instructs the committee of fifteen to follow the spirit of the majority report and the supplementary legislation submitted at today's session by Judge N. E. Harris, of the Georgia conference.

After a service of prayer for the success of the mediators in their work of pacification of Mexico the conference adjourned until 9 o'clock tomorrow.

CLAIM SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS.

It developed in the arguments that the signers of the majority report, which was adopted by the conference late Saturday night, had discovered that the church held substantial instead of "negligible" rights in Vanderbilt despite the rulings of the Tennessee supreme court.

This was brought out in a proposed amendment to the report, providing for continuance of relations for the interim between the adjournment of the general conference and the completion of the reconvening of Vanderbilt to the patronizing conferences; giving the board of education authority to confirm or reject trustees and calling on the commission provided for in the majority report to safeguard the interests of the church.

YOUNG MAN KILLED NEAR CHARLOTTE

H. O. Williams Fires Five Times at Dillard Hooker, Four Taking Effect—Hooker Is Dead.

The following is taken from The Charlotte Observer Monday morning. Alleging that Dillard Hooker, a young white man who works near the Wakefield farm east of the city, had ordered him out of his own home, H. O. Williams, who lives on the Park road five miles east of the city, drew his pistol and fired five times yesterday afternoon, just about sundown, four of the bullets taking effect, one entering Hooker's breast just to the left of his heart, another grooving his right side, a third his left arm and a fourth his right knee. He died 15 minutes before midnight. Williams was arrested by Deputy Sheriff Vic Fesperman and Officer L. L. Wilson, who were carried out to the scene by Mr. J. E. Morris of the executive board. Williams was brought back to the city and lodged in jail, pending the determination of the extent of Hooker's injuries.

To the officers who arrived on the scene shortly after the shooting, Williams stated that he had shot Hooker because he (Hooker) had ordered him out of his own home and that he didn't propose to stand for any such treatment. The two had been drinking together and the row is supposed to have started over some trivial affair, such as that detailed by the man who did the shooting. When the officers arrived Williams was sitting on his porch. He ordered the officers away but the next moment he was in custody. He appeared to be very much under the influence of whiskey. Williams has a wife and five children. He is about 45 years of age. Mrs. Williams is said to have been an eye witness of the shooting. Hooker is single and about 21 years of age. The two were said to be good friends.

Physicians were summoned but it was stated by them that Hooker had about one chance in 10 to live.

Both men are residents of Sharon township.

Mr. Hooker has been a frequent visitor in Lancaster, having left here only last Wednesday to return to his work near the scene of the shooting.

MUST KEEP NEGRO OUT OF PRIMARY

The People Will Not Submit to Fraud in Party.

INTERVIEW WITH TILLMAN

Many Will Not Take Part in Primary if Safeguards Are Not Adopted.

Washington Special to Columbia Record, May 16.—Senator Tillman handed the newspaper correspondents the following interview today:

The near approach of the state convention and the importance of its expected action emboldens me to give expression to some opinions on the subject of safeguarding the primary. I deem this more necessary because I know I shall not be able to attend the convention in person, and I have received many letters asking my advice in this crisis. Almost every South Carolina newspaper I see has something to say about this all-important subject, and there are scores of schemes, or propositions, as to how it ought to be done—some good, some bad, some indifferent, and many entirely impracticable and unjust.

It will be remembered that just after the last primary two years ago, cries of fraud went up all over the state and the executive committee did not declare the result promptly. This caused intense anger on the part of the supporters of Governor Bleasdale, as they believed there was an effort being made to cheat him, and I raised by voice in no uncertain way urging promptness in investigating and reporting the results of the election and thus relieving the suspense. The governor was finally declared the nominee of the party and things quieted down.

HE MAKES SUGGESTIONS.

We have another primary coming on in August, and there are many thousands of men in the state who boldly avow the purpose never to take part in the primary again unless there are some safeguards thrown around it to prevent fraud and corruption. I have given the subject much thought and venture to make the following suggestions:

It is a pity the state legislature did not deal with this question and settle once for all by law the regulations that are to govern the primary, but Governor Bleasdale by threats of the veto and with the powerful influence he wields prevented any action. Therefore, the party must act if anything is to be done, and the white men of the state had just as well realize that unless something is done this will be our last Democratic primary of white men only. The probabilities are, the almost inevitable consequences indeed will be, a fight to a finish in the November election, with the negroes holding the balance of power and thus controlling.

ONE VOTE FOR EVERY MAN.

I lay down as a general principle, which no honest man can dispute safely, or object to, that every white Democrat who is entitled to vote under the rules and regulations of the party should be allowed to vote once, and once only, and that that vote should be counted honestly and the result declared promptly. No decent or honest man wants to cheat another white man out of his right to participation in the government, and no patriot desires anything but fair play and equality of rights. Let every white man have the same chance as any other white man, rich or poor, high or low, and let the majority rule. That is Democracy, or Tillmanism as I have taught it, and he who would not be content to abide by such an election is no patriot and no Democrat either. Our trouble heretofore, and our trouble this year, if we have trouble, will be dishonest and padded club rolls and stuffed ballot boxes. The club rolls we have now are old and have not been revised or corrected in a long while. Our politics have been running along in a jog-trot, peaceful, way and dead men's names are on the club lists, absentees who have moved away are on the club lists, and the names of men whom nobody ever knew or saw and cannot find are on the club lists.

This is a fruitful source of fraud, and our first effort should be to get an absolutely new enrollment of the

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EDITOR MCGEE.

J. R. McGee Takes Management of Batesburg Paper.

Lexington Special to Augusta Chronicle, May 16.—In this week's issue The Batesburg Herald makes the announcement that the editorial management of the paper in the future will be conducted by J. Rutledge McGee, formerly of Greenville. Mr. McGee is one of the foremost newspaper men in the state, and has had considerable experience in newspaper work, and The Herald congratulates itself upon securing his services.

Mr. McGee made his first bow to the people of this community this week, in which he predicts a bright future for the ridge section. He pleads for harmony among all the people of Batesburg, and urges a strong pull together on the part of all citizens.

The Herald has been formerly edited by Thomas M. Seawell, superintendent of the Batesburg graded schools.

VERA CRUZ HERO RESTS IN NATIVE SOIL

Thousands Attend Funeral of Fireman Pulliam—Flowers Sent by President.

Roanoke, Va., May 17.—The funeral of William Henry Pulliam, the first class fireman of the United States battleship Utah, who was drowned in the fighting at Vera Cruz and subsequently died, was held at Pulaski, Va. today.

Three thousand people attended the services, which were conducted by Rev. J. T. Trolinger, a veteran of General Jackson's brigade in the Confederate army. Among the numerous floral offerings was one from President Wilson.

Pall-bearers were selected from military companies. The body was carried to the cemetery in a flag-draped caisson, drawn by four black horses and having on its side the letters "C. S. A."

The body of the dead sailor arrived here Friday and lay in state at the county court house, watched over by a guard of honor from the local militia company.

MR. ELLISON CHOSEN.

Florence Man Will Become Secretary of Chamber of Commerce.

At a meeting of the board of governors of the chamber of commerce yesterday afternoon, Mr. Luther Ellison of Florence was chosen secretary of Lancaster's live commercial body. Mr. Ellison is at present secretary of the Florence chamber of commerce, having served in that capacity most acceptably. In addition to his work in Florence he has had five or six years' experience elsewhere as commercial secretary. Mr. Ellison was immediately notified of his election by telephone and stated that he will enter upon his duties here about June 1.

Since the organization of our chamber of commerce in February, Mr. J. B. Mackorell, who was made secretary pro tem, has worked faithfully in its behalf, proving himself very efficient in the work. It was, however, deemed expedient by the board of governors to employ a secretary for his entire time, so, out of forty-four applications for the position, Mr. Ellison was chosen to fill it.

ROBBERS GET \$750, BUT LEAVE NO CLUE

Blow Open Safe in Express Office at Seneca—Enter Through Window.

Anderson Special to Charleston News and Courier, May 15.—The safe in the express office, at Seneca, was cracked some time during last night and about \$750 in currency and silver taken by the robbers.

A night telegraph operator in an adjoining room, and a negro porter, who was on duty, throughout the night, failed to hear the report of the explosion, and the fact that the safe had been blown open and robbed, was not known until this morning.

Negro Shot Near Caskey's

In a difficulty near Caskey's station Sunday afternoon, Wyatt Foster, colored, who lives on Mr. W. J. Hammonds' place, shot Bozzie Witherspoon, colored, from Dr. M. R. Witherspoon's place. Dr. R. C. Brown attended the wounded man. He does not think Witherspoon will recover from his injuries.

250 BANKERS MEET IN RICHMOND, VA.

Representatives of Fifth Regional Reserve District Meet.

TO ORGANIZE DISTRICT.

Governor Stuart and Mayor Ainslie Welcome the Bankers to Virginia City.

Richmond, Va., May 18.—Nearly 250 bankers, representing a majority of the 476 banks in the Fifth regional reserve district, of which Richmond is the central city, were called to order here at 11 o'clock this morning by John M. Miller, Jr., vice president of the First National Bank, of Richmond, for the purpose of organizing the district.

Milton C. Elliott, secretary to the regional reserve organization committee, delivered the opening address, outlining what the convention was expected to do and how to do it. General discussion followed.

Governor Stuart and Mayor Ainslie will welcome the bankers formally at dinner at 8 o'clock tonight and Representative Carter Glass, patron of the banking act, will make an address on the importance of selecting an able board of directors for the regional bank. William Ingle, of Baltimore, and George W. White, of Washington, also are scheduled to speak.

The convention will continue through tomorrow.

Representatives of the five banks designated by the regional reserve organization committee to sign the certificate and procure the charter for the Richmond reserve bank met at 10:15 a. m. in the First National Bank and completed that formality.

H. C. MacQueen, president of the Murchison National Bank, Wilmington, N. C., presided.

The banks and representatives were: Merchants & Mechanics, Baltimore, William Ingle, vice president, John B. H. Dunn, cashier.

Palmetto National Bank, Columbia, S. C., J. J. Seibler, vice president; J. Pope Matthews, cashier.

First National Bank, Roanoke, Va., H. S. Trout, president; J. Taylor Meadows, cashier.

Murchison National Bank, Wilmington, N. C., H. C. MacQueen, president, C. S. Granger, cashier.

Citizens National Bank, Charleston, W. Va., W. A. McCorkle, president; J. N. Carnes, cashier.

MARSHALL ON AMERICA'S ILLS.

"Too Much Science and Too Little God Almighty," He Says.

Washington, May 18.—Vice President Marshall's declaration that one of America's ills today is "that there is too much science in the so-called educational system and too little God Almighty," occasioned comment in Washington today. The statement was made at a church gathering here last night.

"There is this thing wrong in many of the churches," said the Vice President, "that because church and state are separate and the state makes the schools the church feels itself absolved from any duty in the direction of education of youth."

The Vice President also let it be known that some day he would forget all of the other political parties and join the Socialists. "But," he added, "I shall never do this until it becomes a friend of the church; never while it flaunts on the streets a red banner in the face of faith in God and the marriage service. The Socialism in which I believe and to which I hope some day to adhere is not that which concerns itself with consideration of power and property but that of the spirit."

FOR EQUAL SUFFRAGE.

League is Formed at Greenville With 42 Members.

Greenville Special to The State, May 18.—An equal suffrage league was organized here this afternoon. The officers are as follows: Mrs. W. M. Burnett, president; Mrs. L. O. Patterson, vice president; Miss Eudora Ramsay, secretary, and Miss Eleanor Furman, treasurer. Miss Lavinia Engle, official organizer of the national league, was present at the meeting. The league has 42 charter members.